

particularly an identification number (Id) of the card (CJ1) and[/or] data [(S, Op1, Op2, Opx)] representing the value units debited [and]/[or] credited initially and during the preceding gambling operations, [the method being] characterized by the following steps:

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- electronically securing and exchanging data between the machine [(200)] and a database [(BD)] of the central processing unit [(1)] by means [(123)] linking the secured network, particularly data representing the balance (S) of the value units and[/or] the identification number [(Id)] of the card; and

- updating data at least twice during each use of the card in a gambling playing session and then checking that the data stored in the gambling card [(CJ1)] correspond to the data in the database [(BD)] in order to monitor the integrity of a system constituted by such a card, such a machine, the network, and the central processing unit.

Claims 2-25, cancel.

Add the following new Claims 26-40.

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A2

1           26. A method for monitoring transfers of value units  
2 between a plurality of gambling cards and a plurality of  
3 gambling machines, each machine being connected to a  
4 transcriber of data onto a gambling card, the machines  
5 being connected in a second secured network with a central  
6 processing unit comprising the steps of, during a gambling  
7 operation:  
8           (a) - reading data stored in a gambling card,  
9 particularly an identification number of the card and/or  
10 data representing the value units debited and/or credited  
11 during the preceding gambling operations,  
12           (b) - electronically securing and exchanging data  
13 between the machine and a database of the central  
14 processing unit by the secured network, particularly data  
15 representing the balance of the value units and/or the  
16 identification number of the card; and  
17           (c) - checking that the data stored in the gambling  
18 card corresponds to the data in the database in order to  
19 monitor the integrity of a system constituted by such a  
20 card, such a machine, the network, and the central  
21 processing unit.

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27. ~~The method of Claim 26 wherein said exchanging and checking steps are performed for each change of value of the cards.~~

28. Method according to Claim 26, comprising the step of preliminary to the gambling operations, entering, in the database of the central processing unit and in memory of the gambling cards, data representing an initial balance of value units in a preliminary card-loading operation; and during a gambling operation entering, in the database of the central processing unit, data representing the balances of value units in gambling cards, and said checking step comprising checking the data representing the balances of the value units read from the gambling cards against the data read from the database of the central processing unit.

29. ~~Method according to Claim 28, wherein said checking step is performed in said terminals, and/or said cards, and/or said transcribers, and/or said central processing unit.~~

30. Method according to Claim 26 or 28, wherein said checking step comprises checking the identification number of gambling card with an identification encryption key stored in the database of the central processing unit.

31. Method according to Claim 26 or 28, comprising storing secret data in each card, and also storing said secret data for each card in said database, calculating an authentication certificate (C1) from the secret data.

32. Method according to Claim 31, wherein said checking step comprises checking that the authentication certificates calculated by the card corresponds to the authentication certificate calculated from the database.

33. Method according to Claim 26, comprising distributed network security means, the method having the following additional steps:

- having a first security means to calculate a first authentication certificate (C') from secret data in memory of the first security means, and

- having a second security means to calculate a second authentication certificate from secret data in memory of the second security means, and

- checking that the first authentication certificate calculated by the first security means of the network corresponds to the second authentication certificate

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calculated by the second security means.

34. Method according to Claim 26, wherein said exchanging data between machine and database of central processing unit are accompanied by an authentication certificate.

35. Method according to claim 33 wherein the security means are associated with each transcriber that transcribes data onto a gambling card and/or with the gambling machines, and/or with the network link means, and/or the central processing unit (1) to monitor the integrity of the network.

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cont.

1           36. A secure gambling system for monitoring  
2 transfers of value units comprising a plurality of  
3 gambling cards, and a plurality of gambling machines, each  
4 machine being provided with a transcriber able to debit  
5 value units of a gambling card, the machines being  
6 connected in a secured network with a central processing  
7 unit by link means, each gambling card stores data  
8 representing gambling operations conducted therewith, data  
9 identifying the card and data representing the balance of  
10 the value units debited and/or credited during previous  
11 gambling operations, the central processing unit has a  
12 database that is parallel stores the data as in the cards  
13 representing gambling operations carried out, card  
14 identification and data representing the balances of the  
15 value units debited and/or credited during previous  
16 gambling operations, the means for monitoring and checking  
17 that, for an identified card, the database data and the  
18 card data correspond, particularly that the data  
19 representing the value unit balance correspond, thereby  
20 verifying the integrity of the system.

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37. Secured system according to Claim 36, wherein each gambling card calculates an authentication certificate from the secret data stored in the memory of card.

38. Secured system according to Claim 37, additional comprising a security module that calculates an authentication certificate from the secret data corresponding to the cards stored in the memory of the module, and in that the monitoring means (MS0) checks that the authentication certificates calculated by the security module corresponds to the corresponding authentication certificates calculated by the gambling cards or by another security module.

39. Secured system according to Claim 38, wherein the security module is disposed in the transcriber, and/or in a gambling machine (200), and/or in the network link, and/or the central processing unit (1).

40. The system according to claim 36, wherein said parallel storage is updated for each change of value in said cards.

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<sup>41</sup>  
~~42~~. The method of Claim 1 or 27, wherein said data  
representing gambling operations are stored sequentially  
in parallel in the gambling card memory and in the  
database with successive balances of value units  
debited/credited with the card.

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